

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 23, 2003 (Paper No. 5). Claims 1 to 5, 7 to 12, and 14 to 19 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 8 and 15 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The informality noted in Claim 4 has been attended to.

Claims 1 to 3, 5, 8 to 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent 5,905,820 (Cushman), and the remaining claims were rejected under § 103(a) over Cushman. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The invention concerns optical character recognition in which the identity of characters in text images of the characters are determined through a recognition-processing unit. According to one feature of the invention, recognition-processing proceeds based on a character-recognition parameter, the character-recognition parameter being identified using a reduced resolution version of the image.

Representative embodiments of the invention obtain the character-recognition parameter through an iterative down-sampling of the image. According to this iterative down sampling approach for the character-recognition parameter, a first recognition result is obtained based on a first value for the parameter, a confidence estimate for the recognition result is obtained, and the character-recognition parameter is changed based on the confidence level. The process is repeated until a satisfactory result is obtained.

Cushman, on the other hand, is unrelated to character recognition.

Cushman's objective is to display an image of characters that is sufficiently legible even though the image is displayed on a low-resolution display. Thus, Cushman down samples its image in step 30 (see Cushman's Figure 2 and other figures like it), the down sampled image is thresholded in step 34 so as to obtain 2-bit data from 8-bit data, the 2-bit data is decompressed into 8-bit data in step 42, the decompressed is down sampled again in step 44 so that the data fits the display mode, and the result is displayed in step 48.

Thus, although Cushman discusses down sampling of data, the down sampling is merely for the purpose of display, and is totally unrelated to character recognition processing. The Office Action cites to various passages of Cushman, such as those found at columns 5 and 6, in support of its position that Cushman discloses recognition of objects. However, all those cited portions are totally unrelated to character recognition processing, as set out in the claims herein.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
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Respectfully submitted,


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